

2006

DONATE USEABLE CARS TO HELP YOUR FELLOW WEST VIRGINIANS GET TO WORK - Good News ~ Mountaineer Garage ~ A project of the WV Council of Churches ~ Many West Virginians who are poor cannot take advantage of job opportunities, health care services and educational possibilities because they don't have a vehicle. A West Virginia University study found that one out of four people who are poor do not have reliable transportation, which keeps them from finding or holding a job. Without transportation, people in rural areas cannot apply for jobs, get to jobs or take their children to daycare.

Even in areas that have public transportation, many jobs can be unreachable without a car, particularly late shift jobs. The Good News Mountaineer Garage, a new project of the West Virginia Council of Churches, offers a solution to this problem. It offers people in your church a chance to help those in need in a way that really counts. We need donations of used vehicles in good condition. The vehicles will be repaired by qualified mechanics and sold for \$1 to families who are approved by the Department of Health and Human Resources. These vehicles will be given to low income people who need the vehicle to get to work or employment training. This project is modeled on a successful Vermont project, The Good News Garage. The terrain, rural unemployment and poverty issues are similar in Vermont and West Virginia. Since 1996, the Vermont Good News Garage, a project of Lutheran Social Services, has provided hundreds of low-cost, dependable vehicles per year to people who need transportation to get to work.

To be successful, the Good News Mountaineer Garage must be a community project of faith, secular, and educational groups, government and individual volunteers. We are also looking for volunteers who have some knowledge of mechanics and vehicle maintenance. These volunteers, after going through our training program, will do a preliminary assessment of the vehicles offered for donation. Later, we hope to develop a network of volunteers who will take a recipient of one of our vehicle under their wing and help them keep up with normal maintenance routines and provide troubleshooting for repair if a problem with the car arises.

Please call Good News Mountaineer Garage at 1-866-GIVE CAR (1-866-448-3227) to donate your vehicle to volunteer your time to get more information This project is funded through the WV Department of Health and Human Resources and the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation.